

Application No.: 10/541,178

2002P19801WOUS
Michael STEIERT**REMARKS*****Claim Status***

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 4 – 15 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 9 is amended, Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, and Claims 10 – 15 are added. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 2 and 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that Claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 depends from independent Claim 9. Claim 9 is amended, as set forth in the above listing of claims, to include the limitations of Claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled. Amended Claim 9 is, therefore, believed to be allowable.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 9. New independent Claim 10 corresponds to a combination of Claims 3 and 9. Claim 3 is cancelled. New Claim 10 is, therefore, believed to be allowable.

New Claims 11 – 15 depend from new Claim 10 and correspond to Claims 4 – 8. New Claims 11 – 15 are, therefore, believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 4 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kino (U.S. Patent No. 6,499,852) in view of Ikeuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,210,011). By this Amendment, Claim 9 is amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 2. Amended Claim 9 is, therefore, believed to be allowable, as discussed above.

Claims 4 – 8 depend from amended Claim 9. For that reason and because of the additional inventive features recited in these claims, Claims 4 – 8 are believed to be allowable as well.

In summary, Claims 4 – 15 are believed to be allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass Claims 4 – 15 to allowance.

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CONCLUSION

The present response is intended to correspond with the Revised Amendment Format. Should any part of the present response not be in full compliance with the requirements of the Revised Amendment Format, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned for immediate correction.

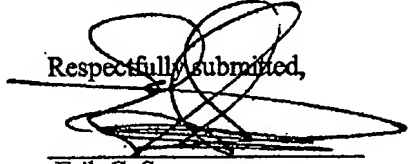
For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is herewith respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502464 referencing attorney docket number 2002P19801WOUS.

Date: 6/13/07

Respectfully submitted,


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